

LIBERTY CALL

Secret Getaway:

Pacific Missile Range Facility beachfront cottages offer the perfect vacation spot



The Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai offers 10 beachfront 2-bedroom cottages that are available to all military, DoD personnel and their families. The isolated location of the cottages adds to their uniqueness and tranquility. With the nearest town a 15-minute drive away, there is little chance of running into the grind and crowded conditions found on Oahu area beaches.

THE military's best kept secret may not be exactly where you might think it is. A lot of people would assume that it might be in Washington D.C. Or what about that so-called "Area 51" in New Mexico...that has to be it right?

Well if you are ever in Hawaii you might want to have a look at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on the island of Kauai. Because it's there that the military keeps it's "best kept secret".

Along the beach on this small base are 10 two-bedroom cottages with all the comforts of home. They are mere steps from the Pacific Ocean and offer a perfect view of the setting sun each and every night.

The Pacific Missile Range Facility was established in 1968 and is the world's largest training range encompassing more than 42,000 square miles of sea and air space. Because of this vastness and the nature of its location, Congress has determined PMRF to be a "isolated and remote command". However, Morale, Welfare and Recreation believes that this isolation adds to the uniqueness and tranquility of their cottages on Kauai.

The cottages are located on a seven-and-a-half mile stretch of virtually deserted beach owned by PMRF, with access allowed only to military members, DoD employees and their families. The cottages offer a "front row seat" to a beautiful view of Niihau (The Forbidden Island), humpback whale migration (in season) and some of the most awesome sunsets in the world. You can quite literally, lose yourself from the rest of the world.

The cottages also offer all of the qualities of home. They include a kitchen fully stocked with all of the major and minor appliances, cable television, washer/dryer, towels, linens and an outdoor barbecue. With two bedrooms and a hide-a-way sofa, there is enough room to comfortably sleep six people.

The base itself offers many activities to occupy a vacationer's time after a long day at the beach. Shenanigan's All Hands Club has a beachfront view and offers food and drinks seven days a week. The club also offers pool, darts, foosball and a beach volleyball court, plus D.J. and karaoke nights.

PMRF also has a youth center, a fitness center, auto hobby shop, bowling alley, swimming pool, outdoor movie theater and tennis courts. The Navy Exchange is available for your shopping needs seven days a week. And the ticket and tour office on base offers discounted tickets on everything from horseback riding and luaus to scuba diving and snorkeling trips.

The "Garden Isle" of Kauai is a 180-degree difference from the hustle and bustle of Oahu. A small town atmosphere illuminates all aspects of the island. Nowhere to be found are the high rises, traffic jams and hectic life that can sometimes be associated with living on Oahu. Kauai offers magnificent scenery and lush vegetation, beautiful waterfalls, the spectacular Waimea Canyon, the great "hidden" valley of Kalalau, the isolation of the Nai Pali coastline and colorful tropical plants and flowers.

Information on Kauai, the Pacific Missile Range Facility, and the beach cottages can be found at <http://www.pmr.f.navy.mil> or by calling (808) 335-4752 Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

An online application is available for reserving a cottage. But beware, there are only 10, and they can sometimes be hard to get. The key is to be flexible. Reservations can be made up to 120 days in advance. Rates run from \$55 to \$75 depending on length of stay and status.

If you are PCSing to Hawaii or are in need of a little rest and relaxation away from Oahu, the cottages at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai may be just what you are searching for. But remember...it's a secret, so don't tell them who sent you.



The cottages (above) are equipped with all of the functions of a regular home. Cable television, refrigerator, microwave, barbeque grill and phone will make your stay on Kauai seem like a home away from home.

Seven-and-a-half miles (left) of virtually deserted beach gives the impression of being stranded on your own desert isle. The availability to military and DoD personnel reduces the chances of running into another human being, allowing you to have a quiet and relaxing vacation.



Five of the 10 cottages (above) are directly on the beach, the remaining being just across a small road. The lanais all look out onto the beach and are fitting for a barbeque and relaxing. Stunning views are available daily.

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